[Translation]

Jamalpur Locomotive Factory

*112. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :
SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of items manufactured in the Jamalpur Locomotive factory in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government propose to start the manufacturing of coaches and wagons in the said factory;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the funds earmarked for development of above mentioned factory during the current financial year;

(e) whether there is any proposal to close down the said factory in future; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Jamalpur workshop is manufacturing 4 wheeler Tower Cars Whiting Jacks, BOX wagon bogies, Cranes of various capacities, Carriage and wagon spares, diesel loco spares and brake blocks. In addition, major activities include overhaul of Diesel locos and Cranes, and rebuilding and modifications in Wagons.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Rs. 3.42 Crores have been allocated for the following two works :

1. Development of traction generator and motor rewinding facilities (Rs. 0.57 Cr. against project cost of Rs. 3.34 Cr.)
2. Modernisation works for quality and productivity improvements (allocation of Rs. 2.85 Cr. against project cost of Rs. 9.63 Cr.).

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Image of Indian Airlines

*113. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has ranked Indian Airlines at number six on list of high risk airlines in terms of safety;

(b) if so, whether the goodwill and image of the Indian Airlines have been affected as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) International Air Transport Association (IATA) has denied having incorporated in its safety report the safety statistics related to safety performance of any specific airline including Indian Airlines.

(b) and (c). Do not arise

[English]

Setting up of Steel Plant at Vijayanagar (Karnataka)

*114. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foundation stone was laid by the former Prime Minister about twenty years ago to set up a Steel Plant in Vijayanagar, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons for not setting up such plant there;

(c) whether private companies have come forward to set up Steel Plant at Vijayanagar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Steel plant could not be set up due to resource constraints.

(c) and (d). According to information furnished by the State Government of Karnataka, two private sector companies have proposed to set up two Steel plants in Torangallu area, the place identified for the Vijayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka. The details are given below:

S. No.	Name of the Unit	Capacity (Million TPA)	Implementation Status
1.	Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Limited	1.65	Under implementation
2.	Mukand Vijayanagar Steel Limited.	1.6	Yet to start construction

Recommendation of Expert Committee on Export of Steel

*115. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Expert Committee set up by the Government to study the status of Export of Iron and Steel has recommended any policy changes and measures to promote export of iron and steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government explored the possibility of expanding exports of iron and steel to the rapidly growing South-East Asia and Chinese markets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The Expert Committee on Export of Iron and Steel set up by the Government has not yet submitted its report.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d). As per the existing policy, export of iron and steel is freely allowed. Export of iron and steel and its destination depend on several factors such as domestic and international demand, domestic price, steel prices in importing countries etc. These factors are usually dynamic and change frequently.

Construction of Airport at Bhuj

*116. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the land acquired by the Government of Gujarat for the construction/upgradation of the airport at Bhuj has been taken over by Airport Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government for the purpose;

(d) the status of work at present;

(e) the steps being taken to complete the work expeditiously; and

(f) the time by which the construction/upgradation work of the airport at Bhuj is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). 47.25 acres of acquired land has been handed over in July, 1996 to the Airports Authority of India for the construction of terminal building complex, parking apron and link taxiway.

(c) to (f). Rs. 18 crores has been earmarked for this project during the 9th Five year plan and conceptual drawings are under preparation. No definite time frame for the completion of the project can be indicated at this stage.

[Translation]

Commissioning of TV Transmitter

*117. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of TV transmitters likely to be commissioned during the current year Statewise location-wise;

(b) whether the requisite staff have been provided for installation and maintenance of these transmitters;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard;

(e) the stage at which the matter of sanctioning staff is pending;

(f) the expenditure incurred on these transmitters ready for commissioning, State-wise, and

(g) the estimated annual expenditure on maintenance and operation on these transmitters?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (g). A list indicating State-wise locations where TV transmitters are technically ready for commissioning and the position of staff available at each of them is given in the Statement enclosed. Whereas, transmitters where skeletal staff is available are only giving partial transmission for the present pending availability of full complement of staff, the remaining transmitters will be commissioned into service on the sanction of requisite staff for the purpose.

2. The proposals for creation of posts are required to be approved by the Ministry of Finance. These proposals are at various stages of processing.

3. The estimated capital cost of a High Power TV Transmitter (VHF), Low Power TV Transmitter (VHF) and very Low Power TV Transmitter (VHF) is approximately Rs. 8 crores, Rs. 1 crore and Rs. 80 lakhs respectively. Total capital expenditure on these 74 TV Transmitters is approximately Rs. 175 crores. The annual recurring expenditure on operation and maintenance of a High Power TV Transmitter, Low Power Transmitter and a Very Low Power TV Transmitter is approximately Rs. 35 lakhs, Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs. 1 lakh per annum respectively.

STATEMENT

Locationwise List of TV Transmitters Technically Ready for Commissioning and Position of Staff Thereon

State/U.T.		Projects	Position of Staff Sanction
1		2	3
Andhra Pradesh	HPT :	Kurnool	Not sanctioned
	LPTs :	Bellampally	5 posts sanctioned
		Pedanandipadu	Not sanctioned
		Kadiri	-do-
		Markapur	5 posts sanctioned